

Incidence

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The incidence of cleft lip and/or palate is around 1:600 live births. There are geographical and ethnic variations, with a higher incidence among the South East Asian and Native American populations than elsewhere in the world. The accuracy of these figures may be questionable owing to a variance in reporting and healthcare infrastructure. The typical distribution of cleft types is: cleft lip alone: 15% (Figure 50.1a,b); cleft lip and palate: 45%; isolated cleft palate: 40% (Figure 50.1c).

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